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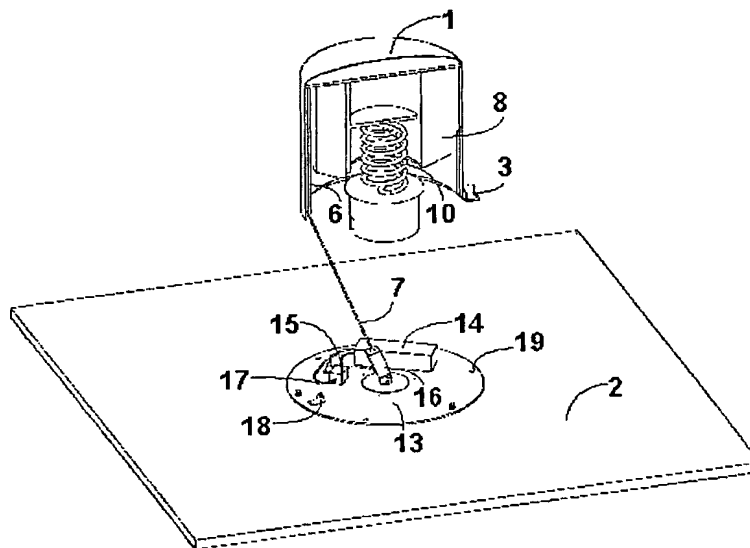
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **PASSIVE DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM FOR SPACE TETHERS**



(57) Abstract: Mechanism for passively deploying expendable space tethers (7) on orbit, by means of an initial separation impulse only, provided by a simple spring system (10) that is part of the mechanism itself. The passive deployment of the space tether and a tethered end-mass is provided by the particular mechanism devised, having very low deployment friction and resistance. Tether deployment brake towards the final part of deployment is produced by a daisy-like brake (12), stored within the winding of the fixed tether spool so that it is automatically deployed (opened) and starts its deployment braking or resistance function from a planned point of the tether deployment in space.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B64G1/64 B64G1/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B64G B65H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC.

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	CARROLL J A: "SEDS Deployer Design and Flight Performance" AIAA PAPER, 'Online! no. 93-4764, 1993, XP002322656 Retrieved from the Internet: URL: <a href="http://www.tetherapplications.com/papers/aiaa93-4764.pdf">http://www.tetherapplications.com/papers/aiaa93-4764.pdf</a> 'retrieved on 2005-02-18! cited in the application page 2, column 1, paragraph 1 - column 2, paragraph 2; figure 2	1, 3
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 08, 6 October 2000 (2000-10-06) & JP 2000 128097 A (MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND LTD), 9 May 2000 (2000-05-09) abstract	1, 3

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2000128097 A	09-05-2000	NONE	
JP 04159199 A	02-06-1992	NONE	
US 4083520 A	11-04-1978	NONE	